

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enhanced call pickup, the system comprising one or more processing units collectively operable to:

receive an incoming phone call directed to a particular user of a plurality of users associated with a call pickup group (CPG);

access data indicating a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of users in a call pickup group (CPG) with respect to an in the CPG in response to the incoming phone call to a phone number corresponding to the CPG; and

communicate the status of each of the plurality of users in the CPG to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to the to each of the plurality of users in the CPG, displaying the data to a first user in the CPG for the first user to determine a current status of each of ~~one or more second~~ the plurality of users in the CPG to facilitate a decision by the first user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user, whereby the endpoints can be identified by their respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and the endpoints can communicate using a voice over IP (VoIP).

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein data indicating a current status of a user each of the plurality of users in the CPG ~~with respect to the incoming phone call~~ comprises one or more of:

data identifying the user each user;

data indicating a current availability of the user each user;

data indicating a current presence status of the user each user;

data indicating a current call status of the user each user;

data indicating a bandwidth limitation preventing transfer of the incoming phone call to the user each user;

data indicating a preference of the user each user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

data indicating whether the any user intends to pick up the incoming phone call.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the CPG comprises a hunt group.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more processing units are collectively operable to automatically and without user input access and communicate the data in response to the incoming phone call.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more processing units are collectively operable to access the data and communicate the data to a ~~particular~~ the first user in the CPG in response to a request for the data from the ~~particular~~ first user.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more processing units are collectively operable to:

receive input from the first user in the CPG comprising one or more of:

a first indication of a preference of the first user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

a second indication of whether the first user intends to pick up the incoming phone call; and

communicate the input from the first user to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ second of each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to ~~one or more second~~ the plurality of users in the CPG, a display of the input from the first user facilitating a second user determining a current status of the first user to facilitate a decision by the second user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more processing units are operable to communicate with one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising the one or more endpoints of ~~the one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG, each of the endpoints being operable to receive the data from the one or more processing units and display the data to a respective user in the CPG.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~a-user~~ any user communicates ~~a-current~~ its current status ~~of the user~~ using one or more of a graphical user interface (GUI) and a button ~~at an~~ at a respective endpoint ~~of the user~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more processing units are operable to select one of a plurality of pregenerated messages conveying a call status of ~~a-user~~ each user and communicate the selected message to indicate the call status of ~~the user~~ each user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for enhanced call pickup, the method comprising:

receiving an incoming phone call directed to a particular user of a plurality of users associated with a call pickup group (CPG);

accessing data indicating a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of users in a call pickup group (CPG) with respect to an in the CPG in response to the incoming phone call to a phone number corresponding to the CPG; and

communicating the status of each of the plurality of users in the CPG to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to the to each of the plurality of users in the CPG, displaying the data to a first user in the CPG for the first user to determine a current status of each of ~~one or more second~~ the plurality of users in the CPG to facilitate a decision by the first user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user, whereby the endpoints can be identified by their respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and the endpoints can communicate using a voice over IP (VoIP).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein data indicating a current status of ~~a user~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG ~~with respect to the incoming phone call~~ comprises one or more of:

data identifying the user each user;

data indicating a current availability of the user each user;

data indicating a current presence status of the user each user;

data indicating a current call status of the user each user;

data indicating a bandwidth limitation preventing transfer of the incoming phone call to the user each user;

data indicating a preference of the user each user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

data indicating whether the any user intends to pick up the incoming phone call.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the CPG comprises a hunt group.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, comprising automatically and without user input accessing and communicating the data in response to the incoming phone call.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, comprising accessing the data and communicating the data to ~~a particular~~ the first user in the CPG in response to a request for the data from the ~~particular~~ first user.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving input from the first user in the CPG comprising one or more of:
a first indication of a preference of the first user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and
a second indication of whether the first user intends to pick up the incoming phone call; and
communicating the input from the first user to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ second of each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to ~~one or more second~~ the plurality of users in the CPG, a display of the input from the first user facilitating a second user determining a current status of the first user to facilitate a decision by the second user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, comprising communicating with one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality users in the CPG using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising receiving the data and displaying the data ~~to a~~ to each user in the CPG.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein ~~a user~~ any user communicates ~~a current~~ its current status ~~of the user~~ using one or more of a graphical user interface (GUI) and a button ~~at an~~ at a respective endpoint ~~of the user~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, comprising selecting one of a plurality of pregenerated messages conveying a call status of ~~a user~~ each user and communicate the selected message to indicate the call status of ~~the user~~ each user.

21. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable medium encoded with software for enhanced call pickup, the software when executed operable to:

receive an incoming phone call directed to a particular user of a plurality of users associated with a call pickup group (CPG);

access data indicating a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of users in a call pickup group (CPG) with respect to an in the CPG in response to the incoming phone call to a phone number corresponding to the CPG; and

communicate the status of each of the plurality of users in the CPG to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to the to each of the plurality of users in the CPG, displaying the data to a first user in the CPG for the first user to determine a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ second the plurality of users in the CPG to facilitate a decision by the first user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user, whereby the endpoints can be identified by their respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and the endpoints can communicate using a voice over IP (VoIP).

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein data indicating a current status of ~~a user~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG ~~with respect to the incoming phone call~~ comprises one or more of:

data identifying the user each user;

data indicating a current availability of the user each user;

data indicating a current presence status of the user each user;

data indicating a current call status of the user each user;

data indicating a bandwidth limitation preventing transfer of the incoming phone call to the user each user;

data indicating a preference of the user each user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

data indicating whether the any user intends to pick up the incoming phone call.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the CPG comprises a hunt group.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, operable to automatically and without user input access and communicate the data in response to the incoming phone call.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, operable to access the data and communicate the data to ~~a particular~~ the first user in the CPG in response to a request for the data from the ~~particular~~ first user.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, operable to:

receive input from the first user in the CPG comprising one or more of:

a first indication of a preference of the first user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

a second indication of whether the first user intends to pick up the incoming phone call; and

communicate the input from the first user to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ second of each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to ~~one or more second~~ the plurality of users in the CPG, a display of the input from the first user facilitating a second user determining a current status of the first user to facilitate a decision by the second user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, operable to communicate with one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality users in the CPG using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, further operable to receive the data and display the data ~~to a~~ to each user in the CPG.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein a ~~user~~ any user communicates a ~~current~~ its current status ~~of the user~~ using one or more of a graphical user interface (GUI) and a button ~~at an~~ at a respective endpoint of the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, comprising selecting one of a plurality of pregenerated messages conveying a call status of a ~~user~~ each user and communicate the selected message to indicate the call status of ~~the user~~ each user.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, operable to select one of a plurality of pregenerated messages conveying a call status of a ~~user~~ each user and communicate the selected message to indicate the call status of ~~the user~~ each user.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for enhanced call pickup, the system comprising one or more processing units collectively operable to:

in response to an incoming phone call directed to a phone number corresponding to particular user of a plurality of users of a call pickup group (CPG), automatically and without user input:

access data indicating a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of users in a CPG ~~with respect to an~~ in response to the incoming phone call ~~to a phone number corresponding to the CPG~~ directed to the particular user, the data comprising one or more of:

data identifying ~~the user~~ each user;

data indicating a current availability of ~~the user~~ each user;

data indicating a current presence status of ~~the user~~ each user;

data indicating a bandwidth limitation preventing transfer of the incoming phone call ~~to the user~~ each user;

data indicating a current call status of ~~the user~~ each user;

using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), communicate the status of each of the plurality of users in the CPG to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to the plurality of users in the CPG, displaying the data to a first user in the CPG for the first user to determine a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ second the plurality of users in the CPG to facilitate a decision by the first user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user;

using SIP, receive input from the first user in the CPG comprising one or more of:

a first indication of a preference of the first user with respect to picking up the incoming phone call; and

a second indication of whether the first user intends to pick up the incoming phone call; and

using SIP, communicate the input from the first user to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ second each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to ~~one or more~~ second the plurality of users in the CPG, a display of the input from the first user facilitating a second user determining a current status of the first user to facilitate a decision by the second user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user, ~~whereby the endpoints can be identified by their respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and the endpoints can communicate using a voice over IP (VoIP).~~

32. (Currently Amended) A system for enhanced call pickup, the system comprising:

means for receiving an incoming phone call directed to a particular user of a plurality of users associated with a call pickup group (CPG);

means for accessing data indicating a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of users in a call pickup group (CPG) with respect to an in the CPG in response to the incoming phone call to a phone number corresponding to the CPG; and

means for communicating the status of each of the plurality of users in the CPG to one or more endpoints of ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality of users in the CPG for display to the to each of the plurality of users in the CPG, displaying the data to a first user in the CPG for the first user to determine a current status of each of ~~one or more~~ second the plurality of users in the CPG to facilitate a decision by the first user regarding whether to pick up the incoming phone call directed to the particular user, whereby the endpoints can be identified by their respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and the endpoints can communicate using a voice over IP (VoIP).